

8th November 1969. League Match v. Clapton (home)

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Clapton 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS bounced back to their league programme with a bang on Saturday, netting three second half goals and securing another two points to keep them with the pacesetters in the Isthmian League. This was an especially competent performance considering they were without skipper John Delaney and winger Len Worley, both injured.

At first though, it looked as though they were suffering from a severe Barnet hangover. The game belonged to Clapton during the first 20 minutes and at times the Wycombe defence looked in dire straits.

It took Clapton just four minutes to crack one of the best defensive networks in the Isthmian League. Charlie Gale was the chief culprit — his mis-header went straight to Chris Beaney who shot hard and true at John Maskell, who did well to divert the cannonball onto the crossbar. However, the ball found Ballard who bundled it into the net.

With the Wanderers defence in dreadful confusion, Clapton mounted a series of fast, neat attacks down the wings — Wycombe's weakness. They are getting caught like this far too often for comfort.

Keith Searle and Vince Faulkner both came close before Tony Horseman produced Wycombe's best effort when he controlled a Rundle free kick before putting in an overhead kick right into the sun. Moore did well to turn it over the crossbar.

After this Wycombe retrieved some of their usual composure. As they got into the game, so Clapton resorted to some rough tactics, which, thankfully, the referee stamped out before the game got out of control.

It took Wanderers 40 minutes to get on level terms, and just 40 minutes for Searle to score his fourth goal in four appearances, for Wycombe.

He started the move by out-jumping the balding Pope, and heading on to Horseman. Tony passed the ball back to Keith who lashed a swerving shot past Moore.

In the closing stages of the first half, the home rearguard were dissected with a splitting through ball. Beaney ran fully 30 yards unchallenged but John Maskell saved the situation by sprinting off his line to kick the ball away.

Whatever was said in the Wanderers dressing room at half time certainly did the trick! One minute after the whistle, Wycombe won a corner. Viv Busby, taking the place of the injured Len Worley, and doing a grand job on the left wing, centred the ball high into the box. Ian Rundle, standing on the goal line, worried the 'keeper, Jackie Charlton style, and the ball plopped straight into the net.

However they made the most of their good fortune to turn on a devastating display of attacking football in the second spell.

Viv Busby put in one of his great runs after four minutes when he dribbled the ball right through the defence before crossing to Tony Horseman, whose shot rebounded to safety off the 'keeper. Barry Baker added his contribution with a curling drive, just wide, from 20 yards.

Searle blasted a clear cut chance over the top before Anthony put Wanderers further ahead in the 65th minute. Busby made it by sheer persistence; challenging strongly he won a 50-50 ball and sent a beautiful pass to Geoff Anthony who controlled it well before slotting goal three past the advancing Moore.

Rundle had a shot booted off the line and Clapton's Beaney blasted over with only John Maskell to beat before Keith Searle was upended by Pope inside the area. Referee, Mr.

Smith, had no hesitation in awarding the penalty, but Pope had other ideas and was subsequently booked for arguing.

After the confusion had died down Tony Horseman proved a first class substitute penalty taker for Delaney by sending Moore the wrong way to notch up number four.

Clapton were completely shattered by this goal and it was then that Wanderers turned on some exhilarating football. It was a real pleasure to watch. No further goals came, but it seemed they couldn't put a pass wrong.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, C. Gale (sub.: D. Thomas 88th min.); K. Stephenson, V. Faulkner, J. Lailey; G. Anthony, B. Baker, K. Searle, A. Horseman, V. Busby.

Clapton: T. Moore; T. Mahon, A. Lawrence; K. Pope, B. Sprauge, R. Pamplin; J. Bull, J. Beaney, J. Hounsell, C. Ballard (sub.: Watson 74th min.); R. Kempton.

Official attendance: 1,701.